

Visit Labour leader confirmed to address crowd at NHS rally tonight

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LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn will address a huge rally in support of the NHS in the centre of Bristol this evening, it has been confirmed.

Thousands are expected to pack into the amphitheatre on Bristol's Harbourside for the start of the rally at 7pm.

Organisers said Mr Corbyn is expected to speak alongside 'frontline staff from the NHS' along with Shadow Health Secretary Jonathan Ashworth.

The event, which takes place at the Lloyds Amphitheatre – the city centre venue for established festivals including Grillstock and the Summer Series – is being compered by actor Paul McGann.

Wednesday's rally is the third in a mini-tour of the West Country on Wednesday afternoon for Mr Corbyn, who is speaking earlier in the day in Swindon and at the Forest Green football ground in Nailsworth, near Stroud.

On Saturday, around a thousand people marched down Gloucester Road between two rallies at Horfield Common and then St Andrew's Park in support of the NHS.

And the possibility of another march – this time to the rally at the amphitheatre itself – looks likely.

As news of the rally broke across



● Jeremy Corbyn arrives to address crowds at College Green in August

Picture: Michael Lloyd

Bristol on Tuesday, supporters began organising a march from Turbo Island in Stokes Croft down to the amphitheatre, which leaves Stokes Croft at around 5.20pm or 5.30pm.

Mr Corbyn came to Bristol last

month at the start of the general election campaign, but the visit was a low-key one to a children's centre in Brentry.

Theresa May has also visited Bristol during this election campaign – where she spoke to party faithful at a

community centre in Brislington.

Last August, Mr Corbyn drew a crowd of around 2,500 to address a rally at College Green while he was facing down another leadership challenge from Owen Smith within the Labour Party.

POLICE

Two men sought after group abused

TWO men are being sought by police after verbally abusing a group of women sitting on College Green.

The offenders abused the women on Friday, at around 8pm before being chased off by members of the public who intervened.

The victims of the abuse, being investigated by police as a hate crime, also left the scene before officers arrived and have been urged to come forward.

The two men were last seen running off towards Anchor Road via the Marriott Royal Hotel.

A police spokesman said: "We're trying to locate the victims of a hate crime in Bristol on Friday in which members of the public intervened.

He said the people who intervened were also threatened.

The spokesman added: "The initial victims left the scene before officers arrived and we'd like them to come forward and report the offence to us.

"If you witnessed this incident and haven't yet spoken to police, please call us or contact us through our website."

One of the offenders is described as white, 5ft 10in, of large build with short shaved hair. He was wearing a black Nike vest with white stripes on it.

The second man was of skinny build, wearing a white T-shirt and cargo shorts.

Call the police on 101, quoting crime reference number 5217118301.

Chancellor refuses to confirm railway electrification plans

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THE Chancellor of the Exchequer repeatedly refused to confirm the electrification of the Great Western mainline to Bristol would ever happen on a visit to Bristol Temple Meads today.

Philip Hammond would not commit to a new date for the project, which was infamously put 'on pause' last year by the Government after Network Rail's costs spiralled.

In fact, when asked if it would ever happen, the Chancellor instead spoke of the wisdom of 're-engineering' the £3 billion project so that Bristol would get at least some benefit from it, 'without the costly infrastructure'.

On a visit to Bristol Temple Meads, the Chancellor came to meet with Network Rail bosses to discuss what could be salvaged from the plans over the past couple of years which would have seen the electrification of the mainline to Temple Meads trigger a host of rail improvements to commuter lines around Bristol known as the MetroWest project.

Mr Hammond said it was important to keep working towards those improvements, which include the Henbury Loop, the Portishead line, a new station at Ashton Gate and the possibility of a new station at St Anne's in Brislington.

But Mr Hammond refused to say the elec-

trification would ever reach Bristol – and appeared to put a full stop on last year's 'pause'.

"The money was there but the project went seriously over budget, so it has very sensibly been re-engineered to ensure that we get value for money all along the line, which will bring the passenger benefits of electrification to Bristol," he said.

"This has been made possible by the evolution of hybrid trains which will bring those benefits without the costly infrastructure investment of fixtures on the rail network itself," he added.

Mr Hammond said investing in the train services around Bristol was vital to tackle the problems caused by congestion on the roads in the city.

"Investing in infrastructure is the number one priority of tackling the productivity challenge in Britain – we've got to get people into work to move around in our city and towns.

"But we've got to do it in a way that is cost effective, and that means engineering projects that deliver the maximum passenger benefits with the money that's available.

"What matters to people is the outcome: reliable journey times, shorter journey times, greater frequency of service, better availability of wifi on the trains. How we do that, whether it's by electrifying or not part of the lines using hybrid trains is of less interest to them.

"What they want is the service delivered and is what Network Rail is determined to deliver too," he added.



● Philip Hammond, the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Temple Meads station. Pictured with Bristol East candidate Theo Clarke and West of England Mayor Tim Bowles
Pictures: Dan Regan

Weather

Around Britain

	Wednesday	Thursday
	°C °F	°C °F
Birmingham	pcloudy 20 69	pcloudy 22 72
Bristol	rain 19 67	pcloudy 21 71
Cardiff	rain 18 66	pcloudy 20 69
Carlisle	clear 18 66	cloudy 18 66
Exeter	cloudy 17 64	pcloudy 18 65
Gloucester	rain 21 70	pcloudy 23 74
Leeds	clear 19 67	cloudy 20 68
Liverpool	pcloudy 21 71	cloudy 22 73
London	rain 21 71	pcloudy 23 75
Manchester	clear 21 70	pcloudy 21 70
Norwich	pcloudy 18 66	pcloudy 22 72
Nottingham	pcloudy 20 68	pcloudy 21 71
Plymouth	rain 16 62	clear 18 65
Swansea	pcloudy 18 65	pcloudy 19 67

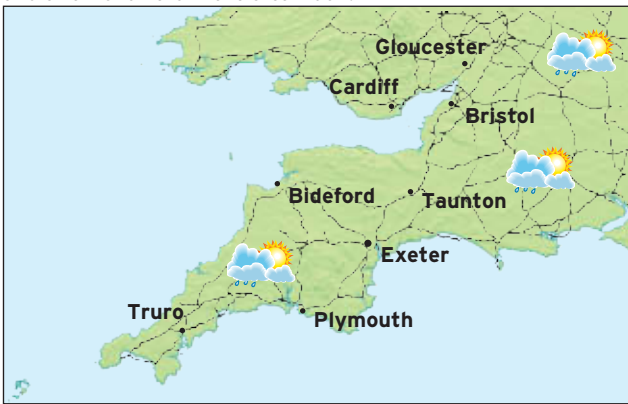
Around the World

	Wednesday	Thursday
	°C °F	°C °F
Amsterdam	pcloudy 20 68	clear 23 74
Beijing	clear 33 93	clear 30 86
Corfu	clear 26 79	clear 27 82
Majorca	clear 26 79	clear 26 80
Mexico City	tstorms 21 71	tstorms 22 72
Moscow	rain 19 67	rain 16 62
New Delhi	clear 38 102	pcloudy 39 103
New York	tstorms 23 74	pcloudy 23 74
Paris	pcloudy 24 76	clear 27 81
Rio	pcloudy 27 82	tstorms 30 86
Rome	clear 28 84	pcloudy 30 86
Sydney	pcloudy 16 61	clear 17 63
Tokyo	pcloudy 26 79	rain 23 75

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Today's Weather

High pressure will produce dry conditions with some sunshine early today, then a warm front will produce thickening clouds and a few showers in the afternoon.



Sun & Moon

Sunrise 5:04 a.m.
Sunset 9:17 p.m.
Moonrise 11:29 a.m.
Moonset 1:21 a.m.



Almanac

	Bideford	Exeter	Taunton
Yesterday's High (°C/°F)	21/71	20/68	21/70
Yesterday's Low (°C/°F)	13/57	11/52	13/56
Yesterday's Precip	0.01"	0.00"	0.00"

	Bristol	Gloucester	Truro
Yesterday's High (°C/°F)	21/70	20/69	19/67
Yesterday's Low (°C/°F)	13/57	12/55	12/55
Yesterday's Precip	0.08"	0.00"	0.00"

For more information go to weather.co.uk

Four-Day Outlook

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Chance of rain. 21°C/70°F 11°C/52°F	Partly cloudy. 23°C/74°F 12°C/55°F	Chance of rain. 21°C/70°F 11°C/52°F	Mostly cloudy. 18°C/66°F 9°C/49°F

High Tides

	Wednesday	Thursday
Liverpool	4:54 a.m. 5:28 p.m.	8:00 a.m. 8:40 p.m.
Holyhead	4:09 a.m. 4:50 p.m.	7:21 a.m. 8:10 p.m.
Menai Bridge	4:32 a.m. 5:10 p.m.	7:33 a.m. 8:21 p.m.
Caernarfon	9:03 a.m. 9:30 p.m.	9:51 a.m. 10:15 p.m.
Porthmadog	1:09 a.m. 1:43 p.m.	2:09 a.m. 2:46 p.m.
Barmouth	2:21 p.m. ----	4:58 a.m. 5:36 p.m.
Milford Haven	12:21 p.m. 12:45 a.m.	2:55 a.m. 3:31 p.m.
Swansea	12:27 p.m. 12:50 a.m.	3:01 a.m. 3:34 p.m.
Plymouth	12:01 p.m. 12:11 a.m.	2:03 a.m. 2:54 p.m.
Dover	4:48 a.m. 5:14 p.m.	8:12 a.m. 8:37 p.m.



● Philip Hammond is interviewed at Bristol Temple Meads railway station

TELEVISION

TV firm in search for food producers

THE makers of Gogglebox are back in Bristol – but this time to look for the city's best small food and drink producers.

Studio Lambert, the TV company behind Gogglebox, Tattoo Fixers and Undercover Boss, has been commissioned by the BBC for a new competitive food series.

The team will be coming to Bristol to look for amateur and small-scale food and drink producers. In each episode, the team will meet four different producers and get to know more about them, their products and how it is created.

They are then brought together to a local

shop in Yorkshire, where each product will have its own stand. A winner is picked based on the judges' opinions and the product's popularity with local residents.

A spokesman for Studio Lambert said: "We are looking to speak to producers of baked goods, sweets, cheese, meat, fish, preserves, chutneys, condiments and drinks. To be eligible to apply, you must be an amateur or small scale food producer. This means that the majority of your personal income must not derive from the product or cheffing."

To apply, visit www.studiolambert.com/artisan-food.html.

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